(b) the number of post offices presently computerised;

(c) the total allocation of funds for this project; and

(d) by when the remaining are likely to be computerised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The process of computerisation of big post offices has begun since the Eight Five Year Plan. However, at present there is no plan to provide internet/E-mail facility in the post offices.

(b) A total number of 1306 post offices have been computerised till 31st March, 1999.

(c) A sum of Rs. 41 crores has been allocated for the purpose during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(d) A total of 300 Head Post Offices are proposed to be covered during the remaining plan period i.e. till 31st March, 2002.

Opening of a post office at Shalimar Bagh, New Delhi

2024. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shalimar Bagh, a huge residential and commercial complex in the vicinity of Azadpur Mandi in North Delhi has not been provided with a post office to cater to the needs of lakhs of people of this area; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to open a post office in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) A departmental Post Office was functioning in Shalimar Bagh in a rented building from which it was forcibly evicted on 7.9.98 under the orders of court of law. Due to non-availability of accommodation in the locality, the P.O. was temporarily merged with the nearby New Sabzi Mandi P.O.

(b) A built-up unit measuring 916-64 Sq. ft. in U&V block of Shalimar Bagh has since been purchased from the DDA for housing Shalimar Bagh Post Office. Requisite civil & electric work in the building is in progress.

Setting up of a maritime museum at Dwaraka

2025. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state: